

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19859 181637Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19859

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PINT, PINR, TGEN, UR, US
SUBJECT: V. K. PETUKHOV - ONE YEAR AFTER THE TOTH AFFAIR

REF: 77 MOSCOW 8464

1. ONE YEAR AFTER THE TOTH AFFAIR, DR. V. K. PETUKHOV, THE SOVIET SCIENTIST WHO HANDED TOTH A PAPER WHICH ALLEGEDLY CONTAINED CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ON PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL RESEARCH IS STILL ON THE JOB AT THE TARASSEVICH INSTITUTE, BUT IS OPENLY SHUNNED BY HIS COLLEAGUES.

2. AN AMERICAN EXCHANGE REPORTS THAT PETUKHOV, WHO WAS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSACTION WHICH LED TO THE KGB QUESTIONING OF LA TIMES CORRESPONDENT ROBERT TOTH IN JUNE 1977 (REFTEL) CONTINUES AT HIS JOB AS SENIOR RESEARCHER AT THE TARASSEVICH STATE RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR STANDARDIZATION AND CONTROL OF MEDICAL AND BIOLOGICAL PREPARATIONS. HIS COLLEAGUES, HOWEVER, INCLUDING THE DIRECTOR OF THE INSTITUTE, ARE OPENLY
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19859 181637Z

COLD TO PETUKHOV AND TRY TO AVOID HIM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE UNSAVOURY NATURE OF HIS ROLE IN THE TOTH AFFAIR AND SUSPICION THAT HE IS WORKING FOR KGB. THEY HAVE TRIED TO KEEP PETUKHOV AWAY FROM THE EXCHANGE, WHO WORKED WITH HIM DURING A VISIT FIVE YEARS AGO, DESPITE PETUKHOV'S OWN EFFORTS TO MAKE CONTACT AGAIN.

3. THE EXCHANGEES RECALLS THAT PETUKHOV WAS VERY FRIENDLY AND AMIABLE DURING HIS LAST VISIT, AND VERY INTENSE ABOUT HIS WORK, PARTICULARLY THAT WHICH HE WAS DOING OUTSIDE THE SCOPE OF HIS INSTITUTE DUTIES. ALTHOUGH PETUKHOV WAS VERY VAGUE ABOUT JUST WHAT HE WAS DOING AT THE INSTITUTE, IT WAS GENERALLY KNOWN, ACCORDING TO THE EXCHANGEES, THAT HE WAS ENGAGED IN PARAPSYCHOLOGICAL STUDIES AND HAD AN APPARATUS TO MEASURE PSYCHIC ENERGY PHENOMENA. IT WAS THE AMERICAN'

IMPRESSION, ADMITTEDLY BASED ON LITTLE FAMILIARITY WITH THE FIELD, THAT THE MACHINE WAS QUITE PRIMITIVE. THE EXCHANGEES READ A COPY OF THE PAPER PETUKHOV HANDED TO TOTH LAST YEAR, AND GAVE HIS OPINION THAT IT CONTAINED NEITHER ORIGINAL RESEARCH NOR EXPERIMENTAL DATA WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED CLASSIFIED. THE PAPER REPORTEDLY REVIEWS PUBLISHED MATERIALS AND DISCUSSES THEORETICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM OF NEGATIVE ENTROPY IN BIOLOGY.

4. THE EXCHANGEES FURTHER REPORTED THAT PETUKHOV SEEMS EAGER TO "EXPLAIN HIMSELF" AND INVITED HIM TO DINNER AT HIS HOME, WHICH THE EXCHANGEES REFUSED. TOON

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